

University of Rhode Island DigitalCommons@URI

Arts and Humanities: Reports (1979-1980)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts and
Humanities, Subject Files II (1962-1996)

2016

Arts and Humanities: Reports (1979-1980): Correspondence 02

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_18

Recommended Citation

"Arts and Humanities: Reports (1979-1980): Correspondence 02" (2016). *Arts and Humanities: Reports (1979-1980)*. Paper 16.
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_II_18/16

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files II (1962-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Arts and Humanities: Reports (1979-1980) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Today we are considering S. 1386, a bill to reauthorize the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities for five years or through Fiscal Year 1985.

The legislation contains a number of features which will allow the Endowments to serve their respective constituencies from a broader financial base and yet at the same time operate more effectively and efficiently. Accordingly, the bill provides for a continuation of the Arts and Humanities Challenge Programs. These grants, which were a major feature of the 1976 reauthorization legislation, have had an important impact in assisting cultural institutions to raise the levels of their financial support from private sources. The required match of three non-Federal dollars for each Federal dollar has produced a uniquely successful cultural partnership of the public and private sectors. While continuing to serve the major cultural institutions, I believe that the Arts Endowment should expand the Challenge Grant concept to include a greater diversity of cultural organizations especially those whose own fund raising capabilities are not yet highly developed. Challenge Grants should assist all institutions in achieving better financial and managerial stability.

In order to administer the Challenge and Treasury grant monies as efficiently as possible, the legislation allows those who receive these grants to certify to the

Endowments that the matching dollars are actually in-hand rather than transmit these same dollars to the Treasury for re-transmittal to the grantee as is required at present.

Paperwork will be substantially reduced as a result of these changes made in the Committee bill since the cumbersome transfer of funds will no longer be required.

Another feature of the bill which is of special interest to me authorizes the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts to support the arts at the local level. The emergence of strong local or community arts agencies is a tremendously positive development on the national art scene. Partly due to the assistance and expertise of the state arts councils, the number of community arts agencies has increased from 200 to well over 2,000 in the last ten years. These agencies are large and small, urban, suburban, and rural and they are causing the arts to touch the lives of more people across the country. I sincerely hope that the Arts Endowment will develop a program of support for these increasingly important local arts organizations.

The section of the bill which deals with the humanities programs in the states is the result of many months of thought and concern. As some of my colleagues may recall, I have been especially interested in the success of state humanities programs for many years. The 1976 re-authorizing legislation, which I sponsored, helped bring the programs of the humanities committees in each state to a broader and a very receptive public. The increased participation in an ever-widening

variety of humanities programs is tremendously encouraging to me.

I am disappointed, however, in one important aspect of these programs since the 1976 reauthorization and that is the general lack of communication between the humanities committees and the state governments and, often, the citizenry of the state.

The legislation under consideration today provides an option which, I believe, will strengthen humanities' programs at the Federal, state, and local levels by allowing the governor of a state to establish a full-fledged state humanities council. For such a council to be designated, the humanities organization already in existence as the recipient of the state's allotment of funds must be named. In addition, the state must match 50 percent of the minimum state grant or 25 percent of the total amount of Federal assistance, whichever is higher for that fiscal year. These monies must come from newly appropriated state funds and should not be transferred from other state programs such as those in the arts. The Committee believes that separate programs are important to the continued strength and vigor of each area.

Should a state elect to establish a state humanities council, the governor will be entitled to appoint new members to the council as the terms of current members expire. Moreover, it is important that these state humanities councils continue to carry out humanities programs that are

accessible, useful, and meaningful to as broad a public as possible.

If a state should fail to meet any of these requirements for a state humanities council, the existing humanities organization will continue to operate as it does at the present time except that four members will be gubernatorially appointed instead of two. The gubernatorial appointees, however, shall not constitute more than 20 percent of a council's membership.

One additional section of this legislation which I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention concerns the practice at each Endowment of using privately raised funds for entertainment and other representational purposes. In order to avoid any situations involving a potential conflict of interest, the Committee bill provides a separate reservation of administrative funds for representational purposes. It is the intent of the Committee that all independent fund raising by the Endowments for these purposes be ended since the reserved sum should be ample to meet all entertainment and other representational needs.